



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 May 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 MAY 1968

1. France

The text of the draft law to be put to referendum on 16 June is scheduled for publication today. It will offer students an opportunity to participate in running university affairs and workers more voice in economic and social matters. Ambassador Shriver notes, however, the consensus of observers is that the outcome of the referendum will be close.

Aside from the serious problems he has with the political opposition, the students, and the unions, De Gaulle must now appeal to a younger electorate. He has found older citizens among his strongest supporters and young people cool or critical of him. By one estimate, more than a million older voters have died since the 1962 referendum, and some 2.5 million young voters have been added to the lists.

2. Czechoslovakia

Czech consumers are getting at least the promise of the good life. Friday Premier Cernik announced a major switch in Prague's long-range economic planning. While the change may take a decade, the new look in Czech investment will reduce emphasis on heavy industry--on which Communist ideology traditionally insists--and provide more resources for consumer goods production.

3. Iceland

The Communists plan demonstrations during the meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Reykjavik 24-26 June. There could be some violence, although the police are aware of Communist intentions and are making their own preparations.

4. Canada

Trudeau's Liberal Party holds a big lead in the latest Gallup Poll taken in early May. The Liberals got 50 percent to 29 percent for the Conservatives. Looks are deceiving in Canadian polls, however. The Liberals were polling strong early in the 1965 campaign--and they failed to win a majority in Parliament. We think the race will look a lot more even by the time Canadians vote on 25 June.

5. Middle East - Africa

Food supplies in a belt stretching from India to Morocco are threatened by the most serious locust plague in years. The UN's Desert Locust Service has issued a "special warning" that locust invasions may hit 16 nations.

The most dangerous situation is in Saudi Arabia where extensive swarms are breeding. Other breeding grounds are located along the Moroccan-Algerian border, in Iran and Pakistan, and in the Somali Republic where one swarm covers more than 200 square miles. Unless the breeding is controlled, the swarms will begin moving next month.

6. Japan

Sato has won no high marks for his handling of the Swordfish affair, and it will be haunting him when upper house elections are held 7 July.

Sato failed to take forceful action when charges of nuclear contamination were first thrown around by an irresponsible press. He is doing nothing now as public concern feeds on loaded stories coming from the panel of Japanese scientists who investigated the Swordfish--and the panel is chaired by a long-time member of the Japanese Communist Party.

7. Soviet Union

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8. Sino-Soviet

What it lacks in originality, Peking's commentary on Soviet affairs makes up in pure nastiness. A short broadcast yesterday provides a typical example.

The broadcast dealt with a recent Moscow visit by Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Razak. Less than 400 words long, the commentary used the term "Soviet revisionist renegade leading clique," or a suitable variant, 14 times. The Soviets, in fact, came off much worse even than the US imperialists.

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9. South Vietnam

The Communists apparently plan to continue harassing Saigon now while they prepare for major attacks on the city this summer. Captured documents, prisoner interrogations [redacted]

[redacted] point toward a significant enemy build-up in the provinces around Saigon. The movement of North Vietnamese troops into the area is particularly heavy.

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10. Peru

Two of the 16 Mirage fighter-bombers on order from France have arrived in Peru. French technicians will assemble the aircraft.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

National Assembly Session: North Vietnam's recent National Assembly session was used to explain Hanoi's current policies on war and peace to the home front. The Assembly has no real importance in itself except as an instrument to put a stamp of authority on decisions already hammered out in the Communist Party. It did not even meet during the past two years when regular air raids made such a gathering hazardous.

The materials so far published on the Assembly session break no new ground. They concentrate on the military situation in South Vietnam, the success of North Vietnam in coping with the bombings, and the new political avenues which have been opened by the Paris talks. The language used to describe diplomacy as simply "another front" in the struggle is notably explicit and parallels the line often used in secret Communist indoctrination materials.

The speeches tried to convey the impression of order, stability, and economic progress in North Vietnam, despite the impact of the war. There was even talk of postwar reconstruction plans. Any suggestion that the people can now relax, however, was tempered by exhortations for continued strenuous work and sacrifice in order to achieve "final victory."

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Hanoi Propaganda: Hanoi continues its tireless recounting of US air attacks against civilian targets in the southern part of the country. Radio Hanoi carried an English language broadcast on Monday disparaging the US bombing restriction by claiming that the raids are deliberately timed to catch farmers returning home from the fields for rest. Schools, homes, churches, and dams head the list of

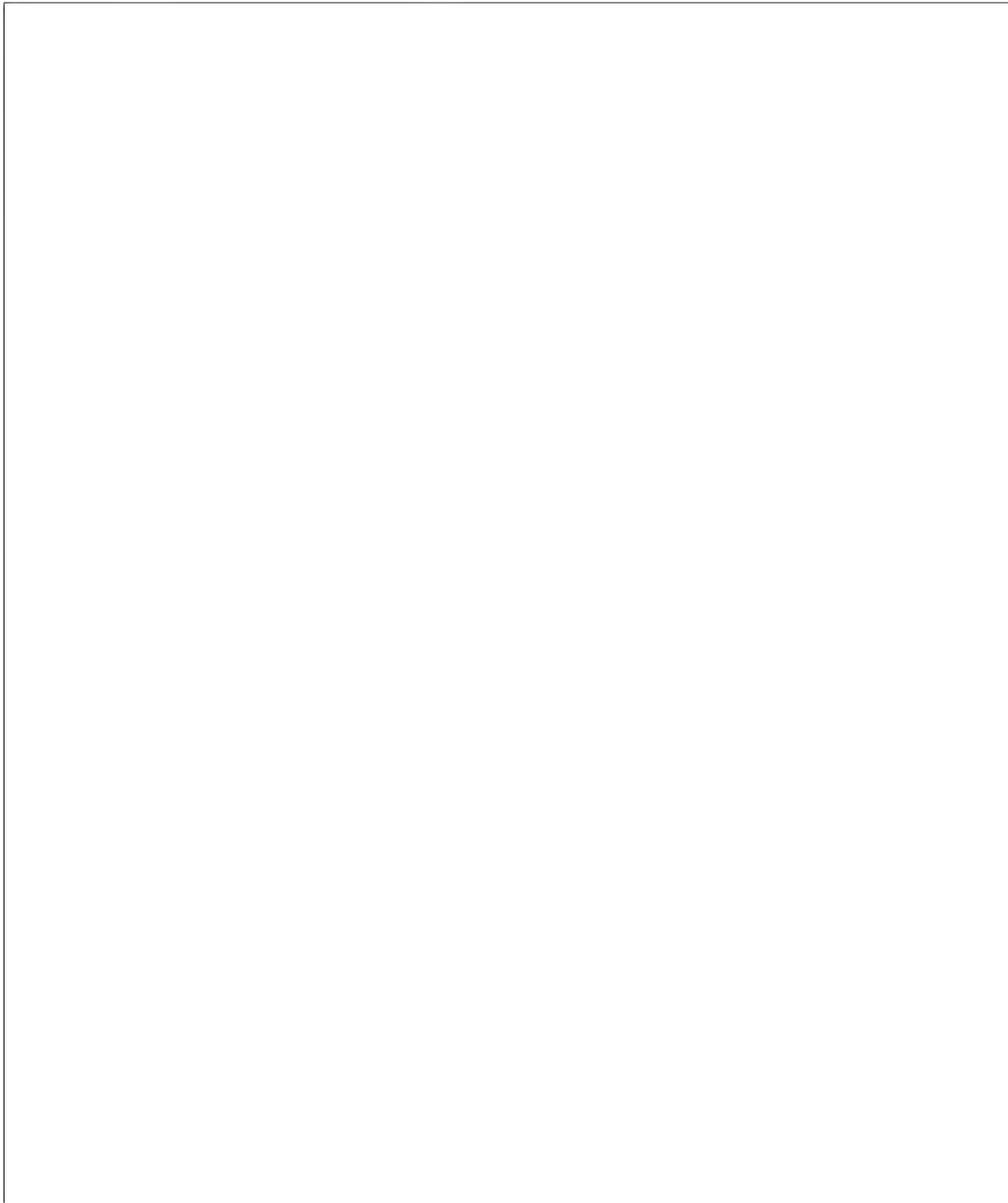
targets said to have been destroyed south of the 20th parallel. The attacks in Nghe An Province since the first of April, said the radio broadcast, had killed "hundreds" of civilians.

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More Chinese Reaction to Paris Talks:

wall posters have begun to show up in the Chinese capital condemning the US - North Vietnamese talks.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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